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ing this, I firmly believe that you will not inhabit a country, in which man is allowed to be the property of man, without becoming the enemy of the oppressor, and the fearless advocate of the oppressed. As the clear and energetic champion for broad and general liberty, you have not a superior in the annals of mankind, yet through the whole of your writings, I do not recollect a single passage that is particularly pointed against the slavery of the negroes.—It is a subject that calls for intellect, gigantic as your own: it is an Augean stable, fit only for such an Hercules. Let me entreat you then, in the name of that liberty which you prize above all price, once more, to vindicate the rights of injured nature, and to show, that no laws, no affluence, no authority, can shelter the proprietor of human sinews, from the scorn and contempt of a regenerating world. Against you there is not an epithet in the vocabulary of baseness which will not be employed; yet in advocating the cause of negro wretchedness, your powers must prove irresistible.”

In communicating a copy of this letter to me, my friend thus wrote in the year 1807.

“I congratulate you on the abolition of the slave trade, and have inclosed you a letter, which some time ago I addressed to Thomas Paine, on the subject of Negro slavery, in the United States. Since his receipt of this, he has frequently sent me his verbal respects, but will not commit himself to paper on the subject. In 1791. Thomas Paine conversing with a gentleman on the subject of the slave trade, wondered that God Almighty did not send a thunderbolt to blast the d——d town of Liverpool, yet Thomas Paine now resides in the State of New York, surrounded by Negro slaves without either writing, or uttering a syllable against Negro slavery, though he may daily read such advertisements, as the following; “For sale, a well looking Negro woman, about 23, with or without her child of four years old; apply to the proprietor” I wish politicians and philosophers would learn to be consistent. Jefferson, the pre-

sident of the United States, the freest country in the world, holds hundreds of his fellow creatures in a state of bondage. Horne Tooke, the celebrated English patriot, is an enemy to the abolition of the slave trade, and Cobbett, the redoubted Cobbett, has been the uniform advocate of Negro slavery!!!”

Such sentiments, do honour to the head and heart of the writer, and tend to communicate a spark to electrify and energize congenial minds.

K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE PAPER ENTITLED, SCOTCH
LAW AND POLITENESS.

THE paper inserted in the last number of the Belfast Magazine, entitled Scotch law and politeness, deserves notice for two or three particulars. In the first place the behaviour of the Scotch magistrates is doubtless reprehensible in the highest degree, and when so many of them concurred in the same line of conduct it may in some sort be esteemed a national disgrace. Want of politeness, is too mild a term for behaviour, in which a deficiency of common humanity and information, is so prominent, as in that of this “Scotch compaction of justices,” to use their own uncouth terms; particularly for that of the justice, or rather unjust ass, who kept the gentlemen exposed to the rain while he was breakfasting at his ease.

But on the other hand it is evident, the gentlemen themselves were to blame, in being too hasty, and over severe in the exaction of their rights, and were peculiarly imprudent in being so in a strange place, where it appears our country is not held in too much esteem.

Let them reflect how much trouble and vexation they would have saved themselves by sending, or going to the first man they engaged, to terminate their bargain with him, before they hired a second; their omitting to do so, and taking the method they adopted, though it was according to their right, yet it was a strictness of right bordering on the *summum jus*, which all know to be *summa injuria*.

The man might besides, have been detained by some unexpected accident, or misfortune, and a little of that "milk of human kindness," which our countrymen are seldom deficient in, when they are not irritated, should have induced them to make some inquiry as to that point, before they proceeded farther.

They should besides have considered that, coming from a country where strict punctuality, the writer is sorry to own, is not over common, they ought to have been more indulgent to the failings of our neighbours, in this point.

The man who sets forward in life, with a resolution to exact his strict right, in every particular to its utmost limits, will have pretty much such a journey through it, as those gentlemen, had across the neck of Scotland; and if they consider the matter in this light, they may receive ample compensation for what they suffered, in the case with which the lesson they have thus learned, may enable them to travel either literally on terra firma, or metaphorically, through the pilgrimage of existence.

Or at least if they do not, the remark may perhaps have this good effect on some of the readers of the Magazine, and if it has, the view of the writer will be answered which is in showing by this example the great advantage which the good old rule of "*to bear and forbear*," may be in ensuring a pleasant passage through the world, to contribute his mite to the sum of human happiness. The man who despises this rule will be sure to feel the curse of Cain." "His hand will be against every man and every man's hand against him." N.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
BY inserting the following, you will oblige a Correspondent.

I have frequently observed that our fires which are composed of turf, burn better at night, than in day light, this is the case when lime is burning, or bog lands, more especially, if it is in time of frost: in consequence of this the farmer is sure to attend

the burning of his bogs, if he has any, at night, because his fires burn better, this he does without knowing the reason why it is so. It is known that the solar light extinguishes our fires, and retards their burning; but the above will be the case, even when the sun is obscured by clouds for many days together. *Quere*—the reason. T.

Ballinahinch, Nov. 10, 1809

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THOUGHTS ON FRIENDSHIP.

Poor is the friendless master of a world;
A world in purchase for a friend is gain.

YOUNG.

THERE is no luxury so great; nor any to which men in all situations have more equal claims, than that of Friendship; but alas! how little do we reflect on the importance, or, how poorly do we appreciate the advantages resulting from it; no person at the time he professes friendship, but imagines he is possessed of all the requisites which constitute it, hence, the frequent exclamations of ingratitude, treachery, and hypocrisy which ever resound in our ears; hence, the person "hackney'd in the ways of men," looks on the world with a distempered, suspicious eye, thinks mankind only a compound of craft, and dissimulation, and because of his experience, never tastes the assuasive cordial with which Heaven has blended the bitter draught of worldly enjoyments.

How widely different would be our situation in this world, did we, first study ourselves, eradicate every unfavourable propensity from our hearts, cultivate every disposition that would encrease our own and our neighbour's happiness—and be careful never to give the imperative influence, or title of a bosom friend, to one whose age, pursuits, situation, and qualifications are not exactly corresponding with our own—not to have many friends. and to be extremely choice in our selections, that those may have our unbounded confidence, and justly merit our esteem—that when we have found this pearl of inestimable value, we should never give scope to our